

Docket No. 6173-29US

**REMARKS**

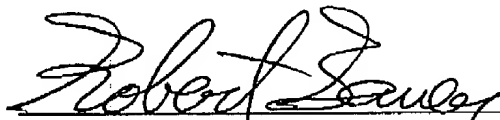
Claims 1-29, 33-53, 55-57, and 60-67 are now pending in this application. Claims 30-32, 54, and 58-59 have been cancelled; claims 12, 15, 25, 28-29, 33-53, 55-57 and 60-66 have been amended and claim 67 has been added by this Amendment.

The Office Action dated May 28, 2004 did not contain a thorough examination of the claims. It contained only an objection to informalities in the abstract and a rejection of all of the pending claims (claims 1-66) as being indefinite under 35 USC 112, second paragraph. A Request for Complete Office Action was filed on August 3, 2004, which requested that reasons be given for the indefiniteness rejection of claims 1-11, 13, 14, 16-24, 26, 27 or 61 and that a thorough examination be performed. As noted in the Interview Summary Record filed simultaneously herewith, the indefiniteness rejection of claims 1-11, 13, 14, 16-24, 26, 27 and 61 was withdrawn subsequent to the Request for Complete Office Action. The indefiniteness rejection of the remaining claims has been overcome or rendered moot by this Amendment.

Applicants now repeat their previous request for a thorough examination of all of the pending claims notwithstanding any alleged informalities or indefiniteness in the claims.

Please charge any fees due in connection with the filing of this Preliminary Amendment, to Deposit Account No. 02-4270 (Dkt. No. 6173-29US) and please credit any overpayment or excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,



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